

RIGHT TO PLAY

The Official Charity of McMUN 2013

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This January, delegates from across the world will convene in Montreal to discuss, debate and attempt to resolve those issues currently plaguing the international community. Founded in 1989, the McGill Model United Nations Assembly has expanded in both size and reputation, with some 1400 delegates expected to attend this year's conference. The fact that in only twenty-four years it has grown to become the 3rd largest Model United Nations assembly in North America is testament to

those qualities for which McGill's student-body is most renowned: a desire to engage in the global community, an indefatigable work ethic, and an imbued social-responsibility.

This year, McMUN has selected Right To Play as its Conference Charity. This partnership builds on that already established through the McGill Students for Right To Play, a club founded in Fall 2006. As Emma Stanton, McMUN's Chief of Staff, explains, this has allowed McMUN to go "beyond the traditional charity-conference relationship, establishing an active partnership with the on-campus group". By collaborating with the club, who over the past two years has succeeded in raising an astounding 35,000\$ for the organization, Emma hopes not only to "raise money for Right to Play at the actual conference" but also to "raise awareness in the months leading up to McMUN". The enthusiasm over this partnership is very much mutual, with Neelum Wadekar, VP Communications of Right To Play McGill, citing it "as an unbelievable opportunity for us to raise awareness and get people involved in a great cause".

Right To Play is an international humani-

tarian organization, headquartered out of Toronto. Its vision, to "create a healthy and safe world through the power of sport and play", evolved from the idea of using the energy and enthusiasm surrounding the 1994 Winter Olympic Games to draw awareness and raise support for citizens of conflict countries. Spearheaded by the efforts of Johann Olav Koss, a Norwegian speed skater and four-time gold-medalist, the organization (called Olympic Aid at the time) met with unprecedented success, raising some \$18 million US in its first year alone. And so began its commitment to protecting every child's right to play, creating and operating dozens of long-term sports and play programs across the globe. Of worthy note is that in addition to introducing an element of normalcy and levity into the lives of children, Right To Play also seeks to teach them about self-esteem, conflict resolution and the importance of taking preventative health measures (such as washing one's hands and getting vaccinated).

At the heart of both McMUN and Right to Play is a commitment to empowering youth. Whether it be through debate or sport, with words or red rubber balls, both organizations strive to better the world in which we live, and this thus promises to be a fruitful partnership.